



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

September 1, 2005

# News Release

## **ICE AGENTS ARREST 4 SMUGGLERS CONNECTED TO ALIEN'S DEATH**

*A Honduran man was killed after falling off a train carrying 6 other Hondurans*

MIDLAND, Texas — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents yesterday arrested four Mexican citizens charged with smuggling a group of Hondurans into the United States, which resulted in the death of a Honduran man who fell off a train.

Jose Luis Landa-Perez, Mariano Valdez-Muñoz, Juan Jesus Coronado-Leal and Juan Carlos Perez-Rodriguez, all illegal aliens in their early to mid-20s, allegedly were responsible for illegally guiding seven Honduran aliens across the U.S.-Mexico border Tuesday in the Fort Hancock, Texas, area. According to the statements the Honduran aliens gave to ICE special agents, they paid their smugglers about \$1,500 to be smuggled into the country and taken to the Dallas area.

Soon after crossing the border into the United States, the smugglers instructed the group to climb on an eastbound freight train where they were to be picked up by other individuals involved in the smuggling scheme who were to take them to their final destinations.

“Once again, ICE special agents working in partnership with state and local law enforcement agencies have disrupted a ruthless network of alien smugglers,” said Jeffrey A. Boyette, who heads the ICE Office of Investigations in Midland, Texas. “We will continue our efforts to identify and dismantle organizations whose members selfishly engage in trafficking human cargo for their personal gain, and with no regard for human life.”

ICE special agents and Union Pacific Railroad police officers Wednesday found six Hondurans and the four suspected smugglers in a sea pack container. They also discovered two other adult males, who were not with the group, inside one of the train’s engines or power units.

The ICE investigation revealed that a seventh Honduran man fell asleep while the smugglers were trying to break the seal and locks on the container. As the other Hondurans were getting into the container, the Honduran who had fallen asleep woke up and also tried to climb into the container. He ultimately fell from the train and was killed after landing under the wheels of the moving train.

The Midland Police Department's crime scene technicians and the Hudspeth County Sheriff's Office assisted in recovering evidence that proved instrumental in arresting the four alleged Mexican smugglers.

All four Mexican citizens were arraigned today in U.S. District Judge Robert Junell's court in Midland, Texas. Junell ordered all four men held without bond. The men are scheduled to have a detention hearing next week before a federal magistrate.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*